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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,367	09/08/2003	Kuo-Ping Yang	YANG3148/EM	8245
23364	7590	03/28/2006		
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER HARRIS, CHANDA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3715	

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,367

Applicant(s)

YANG ET AL.

Examiner

Chanda L. Harris

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

In response to the amendment filed 1/19/05, Claims 1-8 and 10-12 are pending. Claim 9 is cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abrahamson et al. (US 5,002,491) in view of Ziv-EI (US 6,302,698).

1. [Claims 1,11-12]: Regarding Claims 1 and 11-12, Abrahamson discloses a teaching computer for executing at least one built-in, interactive learning software program (e.g., question and exercise programs) and outputting graphical information to the teacher (for teacher's review) and the plurality of students (optional display to the class), the interactive learning software program being able to accept a plurality of operation instructions (e.g., sending a message to the teacher's computer when the student has completed a current task). See Col.11: 67-Col.12: 1, 37-47. Abrahamson discloses a plurality of operational devices for use by the plurality of students and outputting operational instructions (e.g., message when the student has completed a

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current task) to use the interactive learning software program, wherein each operational device has a unique identification code (i.e., station number) allowing the teaching computer to identify each operational device. See Col.12: 37-47 and Col.16: 60-66. Abrahamson's invention is capable of storing an operational instruction status list for recording acceptable operational instructions sent by operational devices with particular ID codes (i.e., specific student terminals) and a program code for changing the operational instruction status list and determining which operational instructions are executable by checking the corresponding ID code on the operational instruction status list. See Col.8: 37-51. Abrahamson's invention is capable of providing wherein the operational instruction status list sorts a plurality of operational instructions into a plurality of operational instruction groups, each operational instruction group including at least one operational instruction, and the operational status list records the acceptable operational instructions sent by operational devices with acceptable ID codes for each operational instruction group. See Col.8: 37-51.

Abrahamson does not disclose expressly a portable computer, for use by the teacher, wherein the size of the portable computer is small allowing the teacher to hold the portable computer or wireless communication. However, Ziv-El teaches such in Col.4: 35-39. Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate a portable computer for use by a teacher and wireless communication into the method and system of Abrahamson, in light of the teaching of Ziv-El, in order to facilitate online teaching and learning.

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2. [Claim 2]: Regarding Claim 2, Abrahamson discloses wherein the interactive control software program is usable by the teacher to specify controllable operational instructions for each operational device allowing the interactive learning software to selectively accept the operating instructions being output from the operational device (e.g., accepting and interpreting question and exercise programs which are downloaded to a student computer from a teacher's computer; and sending a message to the teacher's computer when the student has completed a current task). See Col.12: 37-47.

3. [Claim 3]: Regarding Claim 3, Abrahamson's invention is capable of providing wherein the interactive control software program is usable by the teacher to specify one operational device to process the interactive learning software program allowing the interactive learning software to be used by only by the specified operational device. See Col.11: 40-55.

4. [Claim 4]: Regarding Claim 4, Abrahamson discloses wherein the interactive control software program is usable by the teacher to randomly select at least one operational device to process the interactive learning software program allowing the interactive learning software program to be used only by the selected operational device. See Col.9: 61-66.

5. [Claim 5]: Regarding Claim 5, Abrahamson's invention is capable of providing wherein the interactive control program is usable by the teacher to select a competitive option to process the interactive learning software program allowing the interactive

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learning software program to be used only by one of first responding and first multiple responding operational devices. See Col.11: 26-37.

6. [Claim 6]: Regarding Claim 6, Abrahamson discloses a connection device allowing the output operational instruction from one of a plurality of operational devices to be sent to the teaching computer via the connection device. See FIG.1.

7. [Claim 7]: Regarding Claim 7, Abrahamson discloses wherein the plurality of operational devices are connected to the connection device via cables, and the connection device is also connected to the teaching computer via a cable. See FIG.1.

8. [Claim 8]: Regarding Claim 8, Abrahamson discloses wherein the control instruction output by the computer is initially sent to the connection device (e.g., student interface program) then forwarded to the teaching computer. See Col.12: 33-37.

9. [Claim 10]: Regarding Claim 10, Abrahamson's invention is capable of providing wherein the portable computer is usable by the teacher to putput an operational instruction to the teaching computer to use the interactive learning software program. See Col.11: 7-10 and Col.12: 33-47.

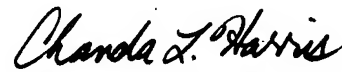
Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. See rejection above. This action is made NON-FINAL.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chanda L. Harris whose telephone number is 571-272-4448. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica S. Carter can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Chanda L. Harris
Primary Examiner
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